

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1621

To prohibit the use of the “Made in USA” label on products of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and to deny such products duty-free and quota-free treatment.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 29, 1999

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. McHUGH, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. FORBES, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Ms. DANNER, Mr. BACHUS, Ms. DeLAURO, Mr. WEINER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. GOODE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. STARK, Mrs. THURMAN, and Mr. PALLONE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To prohibit the use of the “Made in USA” label on products of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and to deny such products duty-free and quota-free treatment.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Made in USA Label
3 Defense Act of 1999”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds that—

6 (1) manufacturing facilities in the Common-
7 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (hereafter
8 in this Act referred to as the “CNMI”) are mis-
9 leading consumers in the United States by pro-
10 moting their products as “made in the USA” when
11 these products are in fact made in the CNMI by for-
12 eign workers using foreign materials under foreign
13 supervision;

14 (2) the misuse of United States-origin claims on
15 these products is a fraud and deception on patriotic
16 consumers in the United States, who rely on the
17 truth of these claims and who look for this label in
18 order to support the United States and jobs in this
19 country;

20 (3) these goods, which receive duty-free treat-
21 ment and which unfairly compete against products
22 actually made in the United States, thereby destroy-
23 ing the jobs of tens of thousands of workers
24 throughout the United States, are currently being
25 exported by the CNMI to the United States in
26 amounts valued at more than \$1,000,000,000;

1 (4) United States taxpayers are being forced to
2 unfairly subsidize these foreign-produced goods in
3 the amount of at least \$200,000,000 annually as a
4 result of the unfair duty-free treatment they now
5 enjoy, unlike other goods produced in Asia;

6 (5) the CNMI has not only refused to control
7 foreign immigration into its territory, but has ag-
8 gressively encouraged the importation of low-wage
9 foreign workers to the extent that these workers now
10 comprise a majority of CNMI's population and over
11 90 percent of its private sector work force;

12 (6) in the CNMI, many foreign workers have
13 been required to sign contracts with representatives
14 of the People's Republic of China which forbid par-
15 ticipation in religious and political activities and
16 which prohibit workers from dating or marrying
17 while in United States territory; and

18 (7) the CNMI has consistently ignored repeated
19 warnings from the United States Government re-
20 garding the importation and exploitation of these
21 workers.

22 **SEC. 3. RESTRICTIONS ON GOODS IMPORTED FROM**
23 **NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.**

24 The joint resolution entitled "Joint Resolution to ap-
25 prove the 'Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the

1 Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the
2 United States of America’, and for other purposes”, ap-
3 proved March 24, 1976 (48 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), is
4 amended by adding at the end the following new sections:

5 **“SEC. 7. HONESTY IN UNITED STATES-ORIGIN CLAIMS.**

6 “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no
7 product that is made in the Northern Mariana Islands
8 shall have a stamp, tag, label, or other means of identifica-
9 tion or substitute therefor on or affixed to the product
10 stating ‘Made in the USA’ or otherwise stating or imply-
11 ing that the product was made or assembled in the United
12 States.

13 **“SEC. 8. DUTY-FREE TREATMENT OF PRODUCTS PRODUCED**
14 **BY UNITED STATES CITIZENS.**

15 “Notwithstanding General Note 3(a)(iv) of the Har-
16 monized Tariff Schedule of the United States, any provi-
17 sion of the covenant set forth in the first section of this
18 joint resolution, or any other provision of law, no product
19 that is made in the Northern Mariana Islands shall be
20 admitted free of duty or quotas into the customs territory
21 of the United States as the product of a United States
22 insular possession.”.

23 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

24 The amendments made by this Act shall apply to
25 goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consump-

1 tion, on or after the 15th day after the date of enactment
2 of this Act.

